

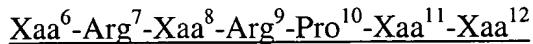


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The melanocortin receptor antagonist as in any one of claims 6 and 8, claim 3 wherein the peptide is amidated at the C-terminus.

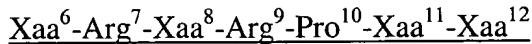
Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A melanocortin receptor antagonist selective for the MCR-1 receptor, the antagonist comprising a peptide having formula:



where Xaa⁶ is Arg or D-Arg, Ala or D-Ala, Xaa⁸ is Ile or Ala, Xaa¹¹ is Lys or D-Lys, and Xaa¹² is amidated Leu, D-Leu, or Ala, and the Arg in the ninth position may be in the D-Arg stereoconfiguration, and wherein the peptide is anisoylated at the N-terminus, and can have an amidated carboxyl terminus. The melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3 wherein the peptide is anisoylated at the N terminus.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising the The melanocortin receptor antagonist as in any one of claims 5, 6, or 8, claim 3 wherein the peptide is encapsulated in a liposome.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A melanocortin receptor antagonist selective for the MCR-1 receptor, the antagonist comprising a peptide having formula:



where Xaa⁶ is D-Arg, Xaa⁸ is Ile, Xaa¹¹ D-Lys, and Xaa¹² is D-Leu The melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3, wherein the peptide is p-anisoyl-[D-Arg^{6,9}, D-Lys¹¹, D-Leu¹²] dynorphin A(6-12)-NH₂.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).